

1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on Statements to the Press by
Dr. J. B. Eby Regarding the Petroleum
Situation in the USSR

1. In response to your request, the following comments are offered on the statements made by Dr. Eby.

2. The statistics attributed to Dr. Eby are substantially correct. Between 1945 and 1955, US crude oil production increased about 2.1 million barrels per day (bpd) and USSR production about 1.0 million bpd. US production in 1955 was about 6.6 million bpd, and USSR production slightly over 1.4 million bpd. USSR production in 1955, therefore, was slightly more than 20 percent of US production, and not "less than one-fifth." Dr. Eby's statement could be correct, however, if the production of natural gas liquids (unknown for the USSR) were added for both countries.

3. Dr. Eby is incorrect in stating that the figures were the first to be released by Russia in 15 years. In December 1950, the Soviets announced a figure of 37.6 million tons (subsequently modified to 37.9) for 1950 production. They have released additional production data at irregular intervals since 1953. Their most recent release, to which Dr. Eby may have referred, was in the Soviet statistical handbook, "The National Economy of the USSR."

4. USSR production increased from almost 1.2 million bpd in 1954 to slightly more than 1.4 million bpd in 1955, or about 20 percent. Dr. Eby is correct in attributing this sharp increase to "new discoveries in the Ural-Volga region."

5. In a NEW YORK TIMES dispatch (attached), Dr. Eby correctly calls the Ural-Volga field "one of the world's largest oil areas." He estimates the 1955 daily production of the field at "just short of 1,000,000" bpd. This figure actually represents the crude production of the entire RSFSR; we estimate 1955 Ural-Volga production at 800,000 bpd, or about 55 percent of total USSR crude production.

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D/M/RR tkp/3011 (30 Jul 56)

Enclosure:

NEW YORK TIMES dispatch.

OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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